

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Fliess et al.	Art Unit	: 3623
Serial No.	: 10/628,082	Examiner	: Pats, Justin
Filed	: Jul. 25, 2003	Docket	: 103580.00030
Title	: DYNAMIC ROLE GENERATOR		

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary for the Oct. 20, 2009 Interview

This is an interview summary filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.133(b).

Date and Time:

Oct. 20, 2009; 10:00 AM via telephone.

Attendees:

Justin Pats, Examiner, USPTO
Seth Milman, Patent Agent, Holland & Knight LLP

Claims Discussed:

The independent claims were discussed generally. Claim 1 was discussed specifically and Applicants provided draft amendments to claim 1 (see below).

Specific Prior Art Discussed:

- David Embly, et al., ONTOLOGY-BASED EXTRACTION AND STRUCTURING OF INFORMATION FROM DATA-RICH UNSTRUCTURED DOCUMENTS, (Conf. of Information and Knowledge Mgmt., D.C., 1998) ("Embly")
- U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037032 ("Neece")

Both prior art references were cited by the Examiner in the Non-Final Office Action issued Aug. 3, 2009.

Arguments Discussed:

Applicants argued that Embly and Neece, either alone or in combination, do not appear to render the invention obvious because they do not appear to effectuate a transformation from unstructured text to role templates associated with a project. Applicants argued that Embly discloses a system that reads in unstructured text and produces structured text, but does not transform the unstructured text into another type of element. For example, Embly reads in advertisements for automobiles, where the advertisements do not have a standard format, and produces advertisements for automobiles that do have a standard format. Embly also reads in advertisements for jobs that do not have a standard format, and produces advertisements for jobs that do have a standard format. Embly appears to re-organize and modify the format of the data, but does not appear to transform the data into something different. Embly, essentially, appears to re-organize the data. Applicants argued that Embly is different from the claimed invention because the claimed invention transforms one type of data into another rather than merely re-organizing the data: the claimed invention reads unstructured project documents (such as emails, project plans, etc), extracts key words, compares them to pre-defined templates, and produces role templates for the project. Applicants argued that Embly is unlike the claimed invention because Embly merely extracts and re-organizes data, whereas the claimed invention generates role templates from project documents; the generated role templates are not merely a re-organized or re-structured form of the project documents.

Applicants also argued that Neece does not disclose or suggest the generation of role templates, as discussed above.

The Applicants and the Examiner examined and discussed the elements of claim 1 relating to the "transformation" from project documents to role template. Applicants provided amendments to claim 1 designed to bring forth and clarify the differences discussed. No agreement on the claims was reached.

Principal Proposed Amendments:

Applicant proposed the following amendments to claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for generating one or more ~~roles~~ role templates required for a project from one or more unstructured text documents associated with the project, the method comprising:

extracting, via a search engine executed by a role generator system, key words from unstructured text in the one or more documents associated with the project, wherein the ~~unstructured text is~~ one or more documents are stored on a storage medium accessible across a network;

~~comparing mapping~~, by the role generator system, the key words extracted from the unstructured text in the one or more documents ~~against~~ to predefined job skill definitions in a skills taxonomy;

generating, by the role generator system, a ~~skills list~~ list of skills ~~based on the comparison between the predefined job skill definitions and the key words~~ based, at least in part, on the predefined job skill definitions mapped to the key words extracted from the unstructured text;

comparing, by the role generator system, the ~~skills list~~ list of skills to one or more predefined role templates, the predefined role templates including a list of ~~wherein:~~

~~the predefined role templates include~~ skills required to perform a predefined role;

and

~~the predefined role template is stored on the storage medium;~~

when the generated list of skills at least partially matches the list of skills included in the predefined role template, generating, via a role generator executed by the role generator system, a new role template for the project based, at least in part, on the comparison of the skills list and the predefined role template, wherein the new role template defines a role required for the project and includes at least a portion of the job skill definitions included in the predefined role template; and

when the generated list of skills does not match the list of skills included in the predefined role template, generating, by the role generator system, a new role template for the project based on the generated list of skills,

required for the project;

displaying the new role template in a graphical user interface on a computing device; and

adding the new role template to a role database.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 23 October 2009

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